

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on August 4, 2003. Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-12 are allowed.

CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

Applicant is submitting herewith a Change of Correspondence form. All future correspondence in this matter should be directed to Customer Number 026304. The attorney docket number has also changed to SCEI 16.895 (100809-16084), and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner update such information in the PALM system.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of Applicant's IDS filed July 21, 2000. Enclosed herewith are copies of such IDS, Form 1449, original return receipt postcard and postcard stamped by the USPTO and evidencing receipt of the same.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Abstract is objected to because of the reference to Fig. 7 at the end. Responsive thereto, Applicant has deleted line 13 of the Abstract, "Representative Figure: FIG. 7."

The disclosure is objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to overcome such disclosure objections. Specifically, element (6) has been designated throughout the specification as -- an open button -- for purposes of consistency. "Figure 1" in the Brief Description of the Drawings section has been changed to -- Figures 1A and 1B --. Finally, "nonvolatile memory" has been referenced by -- 446 -- as shown in Figure 6A.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Responsive thereto, Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 4, 7 and 14 into allowable, independent form, rendering allowable claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 14.

REJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the preamble is inconsistent with the body. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the preamble to be consistent the language from the body of the claim.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph because the language is unclear. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify such language. Specifically, the objectionable claim element has been amended as follows:

-- ~~controlling said timer unit that generates in accordance with said read audio data, generating by said timer unit a CPU interrupt signal which is controlled; in accordance with said read audio data to dynamically altering~~ alter said CPU interrupt signal; --

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuhashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,787,397). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold et al. (U.S. Patent 5,908,997) in view of Furuhashi et al. '397. Finally, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takenouchi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,428,528) in view of Furuhashi et al. '397.

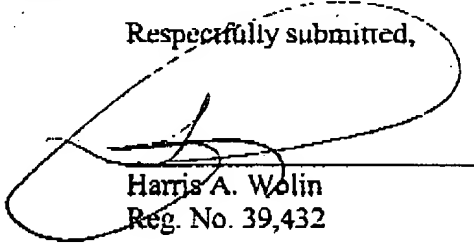
Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended such claims to incorporate language deemed allowable by the Examiner. Specifically, such claims now recite the element "wherein a period of the CPU interrupt signal is dynamically altered to T/n (where $n = 2, 3, \dots$) with respect to a period T of said sound data," which element has been found in allowable claims 3, 4, 7, 8 and 14.

Applicant has also added new claims 15-18, which are very similar to originally-filed claims 1, 2, 6 and 13 respectively, but amended to incorporate language also deemed allowable by the Examiner. Specifically, such claims recite language based on the Examiner's statement "As such, the prior art fails to anticipate or make obvious a timer generating an interrupt signal using a down-counter or electronic means causing the CPU to control a down-counter based on the period of sound data." (see paragraph 12 of the Detailed Action dated August 4, 2003, entitled "Allowable Subject Matter")

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-18, consisting of independent claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 13-18 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, including \$688 for eight (8) excess independent claims, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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